

Visitor Management Strategies for Hells Canyon Wilderness

Table C-5a defines guidelines to provide managers with strategies for maintaining desired wilderness experience opportunity levels and desired conditions for the wilderness resource. Monitoring and limits of acceptable change would determine appropriate management action at the appropriate time. Although the strategies are listed from least restrictive to most restrictive, there is no implication that they must be activated in that order. Managers would be expected to use whichever action is appropriate for the conditions and time. In general, the cost of implementation would increase proportionately as the more direct strategies are applied. Funding may affect the level of intensity and rate in which the strategies would be applied.

Alternatives B and E-modified would implement these new indirect and direct strategies to maintain desired wilderness experience opportunity levels and desired conditions for the wilderness resource. The appropriate level of environmental analysis would be conducted prior to implementation if the action selected were considered a significant departure from existing operations.

Indirect strategies would control and maintain use within wilderness capacity and desired experience opportunity levels. Asterisked (*) actions are those activities that should be ongoing and emphasized in visitor information service (VIS) and public affairs programs on the Forest, District and at visitor centers in an effort to maintain freedom of choice, and to eliminate or delay the need to apply direct strategy action. **Direct strategies** would control and maintain use at capacity and at the desired experience opportunity levels to prevent site degradation and stabilize encounter rates. Direct strategies would be emphasized at portals or trailheads to lessen interior wilderness control.

Table C-5a: Visitor Management Strategies - Hells Canyon Wilderness

Indirect Strategies	
1 - Information Dispersal	2 - Physical Alterations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Strengthen communication between the various levels of the Forest Service and local chambers of commerce to assure common goals in wilderness management and use, including agreement on if, how, and when to promote the HCNRA. * Improve education and written messages to assure accurate portrayal of wilderness resources and provide visitors with realistic expectations. * Increase public contact at wilderness portals during periods of high use to educate and inform users of wilderness conditions and user regulations. Ask people to accept the area on its own terms. * Inform visitors of disadvantages of problem areas and/or advantages of alternative areas. * Encourage use outside peak use periods to avoid overcrowding and enhance visitor experience. * Modify visitor behavior by implementing a comprehensive education program to encourage and enhance wilderness ethic. * Encourage use of low use areas outside wilderness (or the HCNRA) that provide a similar experience. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make access to wilderness portals and problem areas more difficult by maintaining travel corridors to a lower standard. Manage trailheads and trails at a low level and inform public of their managed condition to control use and impact. * Remove problems such as litter, human waste, and unauthorized facilities to prevent further degradation at the impacted area. Eliminate campsites or attractants in problem areas to prevent overuse and resource impacts. Locate or relocate campsites to durable areas to eliminate or prevent impact to the resource. Shield high use sites from continued impact by providing facilities such as temporary high lines, permanent high lines, and tent pads, focusing on resource protection, not visitor comfort and convenience. Require visitor registration or mandatory, nonrestrictive permit system.

Table C-5a: Visitor Management Strategies - Hells Canyon Wilderness

Direct Strategies			
1 - Zoning	2 - Rationing Use Intensity	3 - Restricting Activities	4 - Enforcement
<p>Establish the total overnight use carrying capacity for the entire wilderness, complete a campsite inventory, use forest plan direction to identify acceptable campsites, and estimate the total acceptable amount of use based on occupancy of acceptable campsites.</p> <p>Segregate user types, horse users/hikers, to alleviate incompatible uses and make better use of available areas and space.</p> <p>Discourage or prohibit stock in specific areas to protect resource from degradation.</p>	<p>Require visitor registration or mandatory, restrictive permit system to monitor use and signal additional need for changes in management activities.</p> <p>Encourage or permit use on certain designated campsites and/or locations to maintain site integrity and prevent resource damage.</p> <p>Concentrate use on sites through design, site hardening, and information to limit resource impacts.</p> <p>Require permits for periods of high use, or high use impact potential, to control numbers and limit impact.</p>	<p>Discourage, limit, or prohibit use of problem areas to prevent additional resource damage. Rehabilitation of excessive impacts around sites could be done concurrently while limiting use to a designated area.</p> <p>Establish different skill and/or equipment requirements to minimize impacting practices or equipment use.</p> <p>Encourage or require a length of stay limit at specific sites to prevent overuse and resource damage.</p> <p>Discourage or prohibit use when impact potential is high.</p> <p>Discourage or prohibit particularly damaging practices and/or equipment.</p> <p>Encourage or require smaller party size and/or limit stock numbers to limit resource degradation and improve experience level.</p> <p>Discourage or prohibit overnight use in specific areas to reduce resource impacts.</p> <p>Limit length of stay in entire wilderness to reduce resource impacts and improve experience opportunities.</p> <p>Limit number of visitors to entire wilderness to reduce resource impacts and improved experience.</p> <p>Implement entry permit system.</p> <p>Implement area closures if necessary and appropriate to limit or correct impacts from camping, grazing, or other associated activities.</p> <p>Assign camps and time periods of use as necessary and appropriate for the area.</p> <p>Require "set backs" as necessary and appropriate from lakes, streams, or trails for camping, camp fires, and grazing. Distances may range from 100 feet to 1/4 mile.</p>	<p>Inform visitors about appropriate wilderness uses.</p> <p>Implement an intensive enforcement policy.</p> <p>Consider using current research and proven management techniques to correct identified problems.</p>

Visitor Management Strategies for Nonwilderness

Table C-5b defines guidelines to provide managers with strategies for correcting adverse impacts to developed and dispersed recreation sites. Monitoring would determine appropriate management action at the appropriate time. Although the strategies are listed from least restrictive to most restrictive, there is no implication that they must be activated in that order. Managers would be expected to use whichever action is appropriate for the conditions and time. In general, the cost of implementation would increase proportionately as the more direct strategies are applied. Funding may affect the level of intensity with which the strategies may be applied.

Alternatives B and E-modified would implement these new indirect and direct strategies to maintain desired recreational experience opportunity levels and desired conditions for developed and dispersed recreation sites. The appropriate level of environmental and social analysis would be conducted prior to implementation if the action selected is considered a significant departure from existing operations.

The following strategies would be used to control and maintain use within area capacity and desired experience opportunity levels. Asterisked (*) actions are those activities that should be ongoing and emphasized in visitor information service (VIS) and public affairs programs on the Forest, District and at visitor centers in an effort to maintain freedom of choice, and to eliminate or delay the need to apply direct strategy action

Indirect strategies would be used to control and maintain use within area capacity and desired experience opportunity levels. Asterisked (*) actions are those activities that should be ongoing and emphasized in visitor information service (VIS) and public affairs programs on the Forest, District and at visitor centers in an effort to maintain freedom of choice, and to eliminate or delay the need to apply direct strategy action. Indirect strategies would primarily be used to control and maintain use at area capacity and desired experience opportunity levels, and to maintain facility and recreation opportunity spectrum (ROS) setting integrity.

Table C-5b: Visitor Management Strategies - Nonwilderness

Indirect Strategies		
1 - Information Dispersal	2 - Physical Alterations	3 - Economic Constraints
<p>* Strengthen communications between the various levels of the Forest Service and local chambers of commerce to assure common goals in area management and use, including agreement on if, how, and when to promote the HCNRA.</p> <p>* Improve education and information messages to assure accurate portrayal of area amenities and provide visitor with realistic expectations.</p> <p>* Locate hosts at all campgrounds, a direct source of information concerning use, regulation, and area condition.</p> <p>* Post more information at dispersed sites to educate and inform user of area conditions and user regulations.</p> <p>Increase on-site public contact during periods of heavy use to educate and inform user of area conditions and user regulations.</p> <p>Suggest to people that they might want to visit less-occupied areas, such as little-used portions of the HCNRA, other districts, or private developments. Methods to accomplish this may be the use of signing and interpretation</p>	<p>Limit development of high standard roads to maintain the amount of primitive rustic experience and control access.</p> <p>Avoid over-development of all camping sites to assure maintenance of desired ROS settings.</p> <p>Implement subtle site hardening techniques to direct use and control impact. Methods employed may include strategic placement of natural-appearing barriers and deliberate site design to define access parking and use patterns. These physical alterations would control overcrowding.</p> <p>Plant or encourage vegetation that discourages passage to control pedestrian impacts.</p> <p>Use plants to screen campsites from traffic routes and each other to improve privacy and make better use of limited space.</p> <p>In dispersed sites, implement less subtle site hardening to direct and control use. This may include fire rings, stock handling facilities, sanitation facilities, meat poles, and designated parking.</p> <p>Control camping use through loop systems within the campground. Open loops only when necessary to meet public</p>	<p>Reduce services offered but increase fees for use.</p> <p>Encourage policy and law changes to allow a fee to be required for all dispersed camping. Implementation would be accomplished through a system similar to the Golden Age Pass.</p> <p>Require an entry permit on portions of the HCNRA, such as the Seven Devils area in the Hells Canyon Wilderness, to manage use levels.</p>

Table C-5b: Visitor Management Strategies - Nonwilderness

<p>to direct users to alternative sites with similar experiences.</p> <p>Support, through rural community assistance or similar programs, developments on private land where they meet the intent of the <i>HCNRA Act</i> and <i>Public LURs</i> (36 CFR 292, Subpart F), and do not violate outstanding remarkable values, where applicable.</p>	<p>demand.</p> <p>Rehabilitate all existing campgrounds within existing standards and capacity limits.</p> <p>Use site enlargement/redesign of campgrounds to maintain use in designated areas and reduce impacts to nearby off-site areas.</p> <p>Develop more, smaller camps with more distance between units (this may be part of redesign). This would help maintain the experience level and reduce impacts to other off-site areas.</p> <p>Turn all services associated with developed camping over to private concessionaires to maintain opportunities for developed camping to the extent possible.</p>	
Direct Strategies		
1 - Zoning	2 - Physical Alterations	3 - Economic Constraints
<p>Separate day and overnight users to provide better utilization of available facilities.</p> <p>Separate user groups (such as horse, ATV, hiker) in an attempt to alleviate incompatible uses and better utilize available areas and space.</p> <p>Designate day and overnight dispersed sites to provide better utilization of available dispersed areas.</p> <p>Implement site limitation, such as one or two cars per site, to reduce impact and numbers in one location. Control number of users and associated impacts by limiting access to dispersed sites and areas.</p> <p>Close, remove, and/or rehabilitate undesirable sites. Relocate to more desirable, more manageable location while maintaining desired ROS settings.</p> <p>Close campgrounds during the off-season to provide a period of nonuse.</p> <p>Rest and/or rotate use in campground loops during use season to provide a period of nonuse.</p> <p>Rest and/or rotate dispersed sites to provide a period of nonuse.</p> <p>Designate and reserve dispersed sites to control use numbers and reduce user impacts.</p> <p>Implement a reservation-only system for all camping and overnight use, both developed and dispersed, to control use numbers and off-site impacts.</p>	<p>Implement more restrictive stay limits for campgrounds and dispersed sites to provide better utilization of limited area and facilities.</p> <p>Restrict party size to provide better utilization of space, improve experience level, and reduce impacts.</p> <p>Resolve issues of incompatible uses, such as conflicts between hikers, bikers, and horse users.</p> <p>Restrict camping practices and techniques to those that are nonimpactive.</p> <p>Prohibit use at times when resources are vulnerable to damage. Use periods would be designated.</p>	<p>Monitor conditions and use at developed and dispersed sites to assure management maintains ROS settings and desired future condition.</p> <p>Increase surveillance of all recreation and use activities to assure compliance with regulation and protection of resource.</p> <p>Increase law enforcement program and impose fines to eliminate improper use activities as well as provide for safety and security.</p>